



## Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Tuesday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2021, meeting 1:15pm to 2:30pm, ZOOM virtual  
meeting

### Meeting Minutes

Start time: 1:20 pm

1. **Introduction of new H&S Consultant** – Kyle Pollard
2. **Introduction of new PMA (alternate rep)** – Lesley Oliver
3. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion from Robert. Second from Cleusa. Carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes** from previous full meeting (**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**) – Motion from Darryl. Second from Cleusa. Carried.
5. **Business** arising from previous meeting

#### 3.1 COVID-19 update

(M.Mills)

Matt provided an update via Zoom. Shared his computer screen to review a PowerPoint that included:

- MLHU local case numbers & Dashboard – May vs. June  
9 new cases; the numbers have continued to decline since the last meeting.  
Reproductive rate dropped from 0.95 (yellow) in May to 0.70 (green) in June, Weekly cases per 100K dropped from 119 (grey) in May to 6 (green) in June, Percent Positivity dropped from 7.0% (grey) in May to 1.2% (green) in June, and Cases from community Transmission increased a little from 34% (yellow) in May to 47% in June due to some challenges to indicate the locations where the source of infection comes from, overall 7 day moving average decreased by 59%.
- Reviewed Provincial case numbers (299 new cases), Reproductive Number (0.78), and 7day average (278 new cases)
- COVID-19 Vaccine provincial snapshot / local site info; approx. 265,231 daily doses being administered. The vaccine eligibility for re-booking appointments has been expanded to include anyone who received their first dose on or before May 30<sup>th</sup>. MLHU is watching closely for vaccine hesitancy. Reviewed the percent of MLHU residents that have received at least one dose by age group on the MLHU website. As anyone 12 years of age or older became eligible, 75% of the 12-17 age group received their one dose, and 25% of the 12-17 age group received their second dose. The vaccine rates for the 12-17 age group and 18-24 age group are gradually increasing; no vaccine hesitancy has shown on the graphs.
- Reviewed Fall Term Planning Overview; the majority of classes will be returned to in-person for the fall term (approx. 80%) which includes student labs, clinical simulation, seminars, etc. There will be a return to Field Trips within Canada as well as Practicum and Intern Placements
- On-site Vaccination & Testing Centre will be located in the Graphic Services Building and is scheduled to open for both first & second does on July 26<sup>th</sup>. International students arrive in Sept without vaccinations will be eligible as well as employee group.
- In terms of Health & Safety Guidelines, everyone is required to wear a mask and complete their Health Assessment Questionnaire Screening prior to each visit to campus. The questionnaire

was moved from My Human Resources to Qualtrics to improve ease of access by sending a push email with a unique link every day- this does not require log in. Continue focusing on Hand Hygiene/ Hand Washing and Cleaning & Disinfection

- Workplace inspections have begun to prepare for a safe return for the fall and ensure all the compliance to new COVID-19 safety protocols including the completion of Health Assessments, Occupancy limits of areas, Hand Sanitizers, and Mask
- Western will be updating all the signage, capacity, and physical distancing measures that put in place once final decisions are made by Public Health
- The total residence occupancy is 5580, and 5340 students have shown interest living in residences. The remaining rooms will be used for the cases of quarantine and isolation
- Reviewed dining and eateries; all the dining halls in residence and 25 eateries will be open with maintaining capacity limits and serving model. In terms of cleaning, the circular pucks will be used to indicate the seat availability (red- seat not available and needs to be cleaned, green- seat is available after staff cleans and disinfects the table)
- Community connections happen in August for first year students. Further details will be shared in the next meeting
- Reviewed Step Two plans which include allowing outdoor gatherings up to 25, indoor gatherings up to 5, Sports& Rec outdoor training of 25 with 3m distancing, eateries open for takeout& outdoor dining up to 4 people

Peter mentioned that the questionnaire was not mentioned that it's optional for those working home. Comment from Matt that the wording has been changed after the first week of the implementation. There is no need to complete the questionnaire when working home- only required to complete for each visit to campus. The push email does not normally send out on weekends except for the employees working on campus on weekends.

Jeff commented that there are some challenges with low participations in completing the questionnaire, as some employees do not have access to technology or do not check their emails regularly. He suggested to have another internal campaign/resource to get connected. Matt commented that alternatively those employees might complete their questionnaire on paper for each visit. However, MLHU encourages the employees to complete it before they come into work.

Lesley commented that some employees from USC come to work on campus not knowing to complete the questionnaire before each visit to campus. Matt commented that USC has purchased their own separate software, but anyone who is a Western student or employee has access to our implemented tool. In September, students will also get an email reminder to complete the questionnaire before coming to campus.

Cleusa asked about the cleaning protocols. Chris commented that the cleaning was mainly focused on the high touch traffic area, but this will be changed to focusing on high use area such as washrooms, front entrances, etc. for the fall.

Cleusa asked about the vaccine requirements for the students living off campus. For students living in residence, Western requires them to have received at least first dose of the COVID vaccine. Matt commented that Council of Ontario Universities (COU) has sought a legal opinion whether universities

can ask students for mandatory vaccinations, and the legal opinion was that they could not. However, Western will watch closely if anything changes.

Rob suggested to have resources & a campaign to educate students how to perform the proper cleaning for high touch areas such as labs, resource rooms, etc. Dr. Siu commented that the chances of catching COVID from touching the surfaces are low when students wear masks and follow the proper hygiene protocols. Matt commented that Lysol wipes and hand sanitizers will be provided on campus. Cleusa suggested to put plastic wraps on the high touch surfaces such as microscopes, keyboards, etc. to disinfect easily.

#### **4. Review and Assess Trends**

- 4.1. Accident/Injury Report (F. Al Jallad)  
For Jan – May 2021, 96 incidents in total (First Aid: 59, Lost Time: 20, Health Care:17).  
5 First Aid incidents (Animal Care Council: 2, Animal Care Unit: 2, Dental Clinics:1) in May.
- 4.2. Workplace Inspections (K. Pollard)  
Workplace inspections on campus will continue.
- 4.3. Work Refusals (K. Pollard)  
None to report.
- 4.4. Critical Injuries (F. Al Jallad)  
None to report.
- 4.5. Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC (All)  
None to report.
- 4.6. Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168) (J.C Aubin)  
None to report.

#### **5. New Business**

- 5.1 Terms of Reference Review (All)  
Discussed whether to remove 'O' (Occupational) in JOHSC (Joint Occupational Health Safety Committee). Committee members decided to keep 'O' (Occupational).
- 5.2 Workplace inspection checklist update (All)  
A couple of changes were made on Workplace inspection checklist.
- 5.3 Workplace inspection procedure (96-03) update (All)
- 5.4 Meeting Schedule for 2021 / 2022 (All) 2021 August 25 or September 1,  
October 6, November 10, December 15 2022 January 26, March 9, April 13,  
May 25, June 29  
Additional meeting could be scheduled for August or early September.
- 5.5 Western T-shirts for committee members (K. Pollard)

Kyle commented to contact Tammy Johnston if anyone wants Western Physical Distancing T-shirts.

## **6. Adjournment**

Meeting End Time: 2:29 pm

Motion from Peter. Second from Robert. Carried.

### **2020-2021 Meeting Dates**

2020: January 15, February 26, April 29, May 20, July 8, August 19 (extra COVID update), September 16, October 21, November 11 (extra COVID update), December 2

2021: January 13, February 24, March 31, May 12, June 30, **August or early September**

Meeting attendees in **bold**

### **Worker Representatives**

**Cindy Morton-Cesarone, CUPE2692**

**Peter Chidiac, UWOFA**

**Felix Lee, UWOFA**

**Lewis Pellar, IUOE**

Stephen Crowe, IUOE Alternate

**Lesley Oliver, PMA**

**Gurpreet Dhani, PMA Alternate**

**Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361**

Barry Fletcher, CUPE Alternate

**Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA**

**Rob Harbottle, UWOSA**

Krysta Hart, SAGE

Reza Bahreini, PSAC

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

### **Employer Representatives**

**Chris Bumbacco**

**Mike Gaylard**

Bryan Wakefield

**Jeff Bruyey**

### **Resources**

Jane O'Brien

**Matt Mills**

Jean-Claude Aubin

**Fadi Al Jallad**

**Kyle Pollard**

### **Guest**

**Dr. Sidney Siu**